

has given our communities a healthier future where citizens can have reliable health services.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Dr. Gorski for his dedication to improving the quality of care our citizens receive when they need it most. I congratulate him again on his well-earned retirement and wish him luck in his future endeavors.

**HONORING FORMER SENATE
MAJORITY LEADER MIKE HEWITT**

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate former Washington State Senate Majority Leader Mike Hewitt on his retirement. Senator Hewitt had a successful business career before dedicating his time and energies to advocating for the people of southeast Washington.

He is an outstanding leader in the state legislature, and is respected by both sides of the aisle for his generous spirit and warmth. His business acumen meant he brought a valuable insight to public policy, owe we have all come to appreciate.

We have been so blessed to have Senator Hewitt doing everything he can to make sure the people of southeast Washington are his top priority, particularly veterans and the Hispanic community. Congratulations again Mike. Enjoy your retirement—you deserve it.

**HONORING JIM HARRIS OF
WAUSAU, WI FOR HIS SERVICE
TO OTHERS**

HON. SEAN P. DUFFY

OF WISCONSIN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to stand before you today to recognize Mr. Jim Harris of Wausau, Wisconsin for his exceptional service to others.

Mr. Harris worked for more than 30 years in education. First, as a teacher in the Wisconsin Indian Teacher Corps, where he taught children of the Ho Chunk Tribe, and later as one of the first male kindergarten teachers in Wisconsin. Along his journey in education, Mr. Harris also spent two decades as a school administrator and an activist for public health.

During his many years of service in education, Mr. Harris got to know the children of Hmong Refugees who fled war in their home country to seek a better life in Wisconsin. Our state has a vibrant Hmong community that Mr. Harris has grown close to. He founded We Help War Victims, a nonprofit organization, with his wife, Marty, also a public school educator. Founded over 30 years ago, We Help War Victims has been working with refugee families in the Wausau, Wisconsin area, providing dozens of Lao schools with their first libraries, and helping families receive access to medical care.

Since 2006, the Harris' organization has been working with villagers in Laos to destroy land mines, bombs, rockets, mortars, and

other unexploded ordnance. Mr. and Mrs. Harris's example directly inspired me to fight for this cause in Congress and their advice has directly affected the focus of my efforts. Countless farmers and families across Laos live in safer communities because of Mr. Harris's work and my community in Wisconsin has been strengthened by the work he and his wife do through We Help War Victims.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today to congratulate Mr. Harris on his accomplishments and work on behalf of others. His selfless demeanor in which he answers the call to serve in our district is truly valued.

**JEFF MILLER AND RICHARD
BULMENTHAL VETERANS
HEALTH CARE AND BENEFITS
IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2016**

SPEECH OF

HON. JODY B. HICE

OF GEORGIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 6, 2016

Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 6416, the Jeff Miller and Richard Blumenthal Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2016. I commend Chairman MILLER's and Congressman ROE's work on this important legislation.

I'm pleased to say that language from one of my bills, the Protecting Veterans' Educational Choice Act, is included in this bill as section 415. This section will require the VA to inform student-veterans—on the front-end, before they spend a dime of their Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits—about agreements between schools regarding the transfer of credits.

Despite having access to Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits, many veterans still end up having to take out student loans to cover the full cost of their education. In many cases, this is due to situations where veterans aren't aware that credits earned at one institution will not transfer to another school until after they have already expended a significant portion of their benefits.

By requiring that the VA provide veterans with this information on the front-end of the process, this legislation will address flaws in the system where veterans—many of whom are first-generation college students—are surprised by this feature of higher education.

Ultimately, decisions regarding how and where to use these benefits are rightfully left to those who served our country. Our veterans earned their benefits, and this bill will empower our veterans by arming them with the information and resources that they need to make the best decisions for themselves and their families. I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 6416.

**CONGRATULATING THE MOTHER
MCAULEY VOLLEYBALL TEAM
ON THEIR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP**

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Mother McAuley Liberal Arts

High School volleyball team—the Mighty Macs—on being the first team ever to be named National Champions by USA Today, Max Preps, and Prep Volleyball.

Their history-making season included finishing strong with a 32 game winning streak that took them all the way through the Class 4A State Championship Tournament. After defeating Minooka in the final game, they secured their program's record 15th state championship, their first since 2013.

In compiling their near-perfect 40–1 record, Head Coach Jen DeJard's team was taken to three sets just seven times. Four of Mother McAuley's athletes were named to the Daily Southtown's 2016 All Area Team, a list that includes just 12 players. Mother McAuley's volleyball team has won at least one state championship in each of the past five decades, a long tradition of excellence.

I would like to wish the best of luck in the next season to the returning players and coaches, and continued success to the departing seniors, several of whom will play their next season at colleges including Notre Dame, Appalachian State, Ferris State, and Lipscomb.

I ask you to join me in congratulating the Mother McAuley Volleyball team on their excellent season and their historic success on the national stage.

**HONORING AND REMEMBERING
TIMOTHY HOY**

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, as both this Congress and the year come to a close, it is with heavy heart that I rise to honor, and remember, a kind and exemplary citizen whom we recently lost. Timothy Hoy, of Denton County, Texas, passed away the week of October 31st at the age of 55. Hoy was known to many for being extraordinarily active in Republican Party politics in Denton County, as well as at the state and national level. He was, as the Denton County Republican Party publicly remembered, "truly a legend in political circles;" but, more importantly, he was also "always kind, gentle and gracious to all." His profound friendliness was present to anyone he met, and it was a pleasure to get to know him over the years as someone who loved and served his community.

Originally from upstate New York, and having received his college education at the University of Dayton in Ohio, Hoy made Texas his home. In the late 1980s he began to become active in Republican politics in Denton County and became a precinct chairman, a role for which he would eventually be named Precinct Chair of the Year in 2001. He steadfastly served as an elections judge from the 1990s into the 2010s. His service also extended to being on the State Republican Executive Committee for eight years, from 2002 to 2010, and he received an award for his achievements in that role. His zeal for civic engagement for the betterment of his community was unparalleled.

Hoy's dedication and love for his fellow citizens in Texas, and desire to improve the lives of those around him, led him to work exceptionally hard and rigorously for the causes and